

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 11 to correct a minor informality and cancels claims 17-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added and no new issues are raised by the self-explanatory amendment to claim 11. In particular, the amendment to claim 11 does not create new issues since the amendment is merely a formality and, indeed, the amendment merely adopts what the Examiner suggested and should be considered after final. Therefore, claims 1-5, 8-12 and 14-16 are all the claims currently pending in the application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

I. Objection of Claim 11

Claim 11 is objected to due to a minor informality. Applicant herein amends claim 11 in the manner suggested by the Examiner and submits that these self-explanatory amendments obviate the objection. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claim 11.

II. Rejection of Claims 18 and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant herein cancels claims 18 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer and submits that the § 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 18 and 20 are moot.

III. Rejection of Claims 17 & 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lindquist et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,579,347) in view of Dehghn (U.S. Patent No. 6,275,087). Applicant herein cancels claims 17 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer and submits that the § 103(a) rejection of claims 17 and 19 is moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

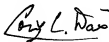
Applicant notes that on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-5, 8-10, 12 and 14-16 are allowed¹ and that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection set forth in the Office Action. As mentioned above, Applicant herein amends claim 11 to overcome the objection in the manner set forth by the Examiner. Since the rejected claims 17-20 are herein canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner Wang is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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¹ See also page 1 of the Office Action.

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